

## CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION PROFILE



You are volunteer conservationists and members of the town sportsmen's club who want to help protect and restore your community's natural resources. Some of your group are hunters while others only shoot targets with bows or guns for recreation. Your group donates time and money to local projects that enhance and preserve the environment.

- Over the years, you have seen the natural ecosystem become unbalanced from the urbanization of wild lands and overpopulation of deer. You see the health of the deer herd and the ecosystem suffering. You care about deer and want to help restore balance for the benefit of deer, plants and other animals that share the land.
- Wild predators were removed by humans decades ago and none exist within the town to help control deer populations. That's one reason you believe humans should fulfill that role in deer population control.
- Your association is willing to volunteer time and money to assist in a controlled urban hunt to reduce overpopulated deer numbers and bring them in balance with the habitat. Your group believes the cost for hunt administration and processing will be \$100 per deer. Your group is also willing to help process the harvested venison and donate it to local homeless shelters.
- Because breeding is an important part of the lives of all animals, you are deeply concerned about introducing experimental birth control drugs that alter the normal reproductive cycles of wildlife in to your community.

### **Consider these questions as you debate management proposals during your town meeting:**

- How can the different management options proposed help prevent this issue from reoccurring in the future?
- What can be done to help protect the animals that share limited habitat with deer?
- How can your group help in management solutions suggested by other groups, even groups with which you disagree?
- Would other groups be willing to contribute volunteer work or money to your options?

### **WEB RESEARCH SITES**

- Quality Deer Management Association ([www.QDMA.com](http://www.QDMA.com))
- Izaak Walton League of America ([www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org))
- International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies—Report titled “Bears in the Backyard, Deer in the Driveway” ([www.iafwa.org/bearsbackyardfacts.html](http://www.iafwa.org/bearsbackyardfacts.html))
- Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry ([www.fhfh.org](http://www.fhfh.org))